The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter, September 16, 1909, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 5, NO. 43. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1916. WHOLE NO. 251.

YOUNGSTOWN STRIKE ENDS

Youngstown, Ohio, Jan. 22.—The strike of Republic Iron and Steel company's employes came to a close when committees of the strikers and the company officials agreed to the following: Wages of skilled workers to be increased approximately 10 per cent, common laborers to be increased from 15½ to 22 cents an hour; two hours to be allowed for noon time if the overtime exceeds five hours; future grievances to be handled by the shop committee and no discrimination because of union affiliation.

The committee representing the workers was composed of three members of the Federal Labor union, organized by the A. F. of L., and three from the independent workers and three from the machinists. The strike resulted in forming large unions of common laborers, electrical workers, machinists, steam engineers and stationary firemen.

The settlement affects more than 5,000 of these were advised with during the strike, and of this number 90 per cent have been organized.

Washington, Jan. 22.—In a letter to A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison, Organizer Flynn states that East Youngstown is not incorporated in the city limits of Youngstown, and that it has only one mill, the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company, which employs 5,000 men, of whom only about 20 different languages. The organizer says it is estimated that about 90 per cent of these workers are foreign speaking. East Youngstown has 9,000 inhabitants, and about 60 voters.

Washington, Jan. 22.—Low wages, exploitation and opposition to organization caused the strikes and riot at East Youngstown is the verdict of the A. F. of L. representative of the industrial relations commission who investigated the labor and industrial upheaval, and reports in part:

"During times of depression, including nearly half the time for the past eight years, the steel workers and their families have been kept alive by charity. The Youngstown Sheet and Tube company doled out the privilege of working three days a week to family heads whose children were found to be destitute, after investigation, and besides distributed baskets of food. The value of these baskets was later deducted from the man's pay check, after he had been compelled to accept them as charity.

"The riot was the natural outgrowth of a spontaneous unorganized rebellion against an economic system of decline in oppressive and brutalizing as to overwhelm the finer impulses of men and reduce it comparatively insignificant.

"Evidence is conclusive that the wage policy of the steel corporation has been based on the existence of a huge surplus of unskilled labor constantly replenished from Europe. So long as the corporation could maintain, with the aid of charity, its own men for such work, discontent was smothered.

"During all these years the men lived in squalid, crowded rooms, overcrowding and poor diet aided the rapid spread of tuberculosis. Disease and poverty walked with dire poverty. The epidemic became so threatening that the Youngstown board of health and Tube company alarmed lest it would close its plant, and spent thousands of dollars to check the scourge that robbed the human fund of its equipment to efficiency."

CHILD LABOR BILL AGREED TO.

Washington, Jan. 22.—Last Monday the house committee on labor recommended the passage of the Keating-Owen child labor bill, which was passed by the last house of representatives. The vote was adjourned before reaching a vote on this question.

In the favorable report of the present bill, the committee states that "the only opposition from manufacturers personally appearing before the committee has been from the cotton manufacturing states of North and South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, and the manufacturing associations of those states have been in the past opponents to reform when legislatures of the raising of the age limit or shortening of the hours of the working children."

The bill has been continually urged by the American Federation of Labor and it is agreed to be unlawful to ship in interstate commerce goods produced by children under 16 in mines or factories, or by children under 14 in factories.

STRIKE GUARDS START RIOT.

New Haven, Conn., Jan. 22.—Police officials of Meriden testified that strike guards started the first shots in a riot, at that place, Nov. 24. Several thousand workers employed by the International Silver company at Meriden, Wallingford and other cities in this state are on strike for better conditions. The company has asked Judge Webb to issue an injunction and an award for damages. At the trial this week the company's attorneys placed much importance on the riot. Policeman Schuerer, of the Meriden police force, swore that the trouble started when "five she's were discharged from a hole in the factory gate." Sergt. Thayer testified that the strikers were orderly and that the only trouble during the strike was when a small riot was started by one of the deputies.

John E. Martin, of Wallingford, said it was necessary to send police in the event of a labor parade, "knowing the strikers as I do."

UNIONISTS PRESENT DEMANDS.

Manitoba, Winnipeg, Jan. 22.—A delegation of trade unionists has presented government officials with the demands of organized workers in this province for remedial legislation. The chief items were included amendments to the election act, a new fair wage schedule for government contracts, and further exemption under the garnishment act from $15 to $25, the prohibition of the use of the labor bureau, examination of barbers and moving picture operators and better inspection of steam operating plants and compressed air tanks.

MACHINISTS REDUCE HOURS.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 22.—Organized machinists have succeeded in establishing an eight hour day in practically every shop in this city. Twenty-eight shops voluntarily reduced their workday from nine to eight hours.

One firm discharged several active unionists, who were alleged to be "incompetent," although they had been employed for a number of years. A strike followed this attempt to continue the long hour system.

RAILWAY EMPLOYES TO CONFER.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 22.—Officers of the railway employes' department of the A. F. of L. have issued a call for the third biennial convention, to be held at Kansas City, Mo., beginning April 10.

Remember hatters' day, January 27, and the sacred duty to give the wages of an hour's labor of that day to relieve the Danbury hatters, the victims of the greed of labor's enemies and the perversion of the law.

'THE PEASANTS OF AMERICA'

Worcester, Mass., Jan. 22.—Under the above caption, the Worcester Post says:

"As the facts develop in the East Youngstown, Ohio, strike-rioting, where the town was partially burned, we find that the progress of immigration was to a large degree behind it all.

"For 50 years the large manufacturers of this country have sent to immigration were an important department of their business. Immigration they needed in the days before the problem. The more workers arriving every year—the more standing outside the factory gates every morning waiting for any old job at any old wages—the better the big employer liked it. It meant plenty of hands at low cost for the hard, laborious, unskilled work. This in turn meant plenty of recruits, anxious to learn the skilled work. Thus the cost of common labor was kept down, and other manufacturers, employing skilled workers, had to meet the employers' low standard. Thus the employers have step to educate them, or their children? Did the fellows who capitalize immigration in the big profits ever stop to think these strange-tongued peasants the American language, or enlighten them Americanize customs and American laws?

"Not one bit of it. The same perfect lly willing to keep them foreign in their settlements where they learned nothing about the country or their adopted home. The employer wanted downtrodden peasants to remain down-trodden and ignorant. Thrift? Why, thrift was driving the life of the European backwoods!

"There were profits in it—big profits"

EIGHT-HOUR LAW UPHELD.

Seattle, Wash., Jan. 22.—Judge Smith of the King county superior court has ruled that the eight-hour public works law is legal and that the commissioners of this county must be compelled to enforce it. The eight-hour law was passed by the last legislature and provides for a minimum wage of $2.25 a day for county road work.

Under so-called "station work" system of sub-letting road contracts was declared to be an evasion of the eight-hour law and the prevailing wage in addition to the contract signed by illiterate workers who did not know what they were signing. This was held to be contrary to public policy and was an attempt to defeat the plain intent of the state law and the minimum wage order of the county commissioners. The road contract which was prosecuted by Labor Commissioner Olson and other officials, was found to include "sub-contractors" and defeat the workmen's evident purpose of the law.

State officials are confident that the decision of Judge Smith will be upheld by the state supreme court, if the contractors appeal.

LABOR TEMPLE DEDICATED.

Dallas, Tex., Jan. 22.—A large assemblage was present at the dedication of the new Labor temple here. The edifice is three stories and a basement. The chief address was made by Governor James E. Ferguson, who referred to the gains made by organized labor and who made a eulogistic plea for conciliation between workers. He said: "As I have done before, I advise every laboring man to join some union, for the union is no stronger than the average laboring man, join the union and help improve it. If you think you are as smart as the next average union man, then come into the union and let the union take care of you."

President McCraw of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, and Labor Commissioner of Labor Woodman and a large delegation of trade unionists from other cities were present. The building, which is of brick, is the only one of its kind in the southwest. Practically every one of the 52 locals in this anti-union city secured quarters in the new structure.

HEALTH DISEASE ON INCREASE.

Washington, Jan. 22.—Deaths from heart disease are increasing steadily while deaths from tuberculosis are showing a decline, reports Director Harris of the federal census bureau. From 1904 to 1913 the deaths from tuberculosis in all its forms fell from 200.7 to 146.8 per 1,000, the decline being continuous every year to year. This is a drop of more than 25 per cent. Prior to 1904 the rate had fluctuated, starting at 213.8 in 1900. Even yet tuberculosis has the gruesome distinction of causing more deaths annually than any other form of bodily illness except heart disease, and over 40 per cent more than all the external causes—accidents, homicides, and suicide combined. Steady decline in the rate from tuberculosis is ascribed by the census to better understanding of the laws of health and the necessity for fresh air.

MACHINISTS WIN STRIKE.

Hamilton, Ohio, Jan. 22.—Machinists here won their strike for shorter hours, started last October, when 1,000 suspended work. Before the strike machinists and machine shop employes were working 55½ hours per week, straight time for overtime and little attention to the shop committees or the union. The agreement provides for a 50-hour week, time and one-half for overtime and an open standing on the question of shop committees. All court cases against the strikers will be dropped and arrangements made they will have the eight-hour day not later than April 1.

MINE HAZARDS REDUCED.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 22.—A report by John M. Roan, chief mine inspector of the industrial commission, shows that in 1915 one out of every 758 employed in the coal mines was killed in mine accidents during the year, or one out of every 1,000 tons of coal mined. The total number of fatal accidents in mines during the year was 64, a falling off of nearly two-thirds since 1912.

DENY A TEN-HOUR DAY.

Portland, Ore., Jan. 22.—Because the Meat Cutters' union asked for a ten-hour day, members of this organization have been locked out by the association of their employers. Local trade unionists are assisting the victimized workers.

Give the wages of an hour's labor, January 27, to relieve the Danbury hatters.

HOW COLORADO LAW WORKS.

Chicago, Jan. 22.—At the last session of the Colorado legislature the state industrial commission was created. One section of this law provides that employers and employes shall give at least 30 days' notice before making any change in working conditions. The law further provides that in case the industrial commission is investigating a question of this character, and an employer refuses to meet the employes' strike, the party or parties guilty are a misdemeanor and liable to a fine of not more than $500.

Under this act strikers are "locked until the commission makes its award.

Writing in the Tailor, official magazine of the Journeymen Tailors' Union, Organizer Biggs, located in Denver, expresses this opinion of the act:

"If the leaders of the employes should ask for better wages or conditions at the beginning of the cotton picking season, and were restrained from enforcing their demands, and were compelled to continue working until the season was over and the cotton picked, and were then given a hearing on the question of whether their demands would be in much the same position as are the journeymen tailors of Denver, Ohio, Chicago or Tennessee, they have not much to hope for. Did the employers take step to educate them, or their children? Did the fellows who capitalize immigration in the big profits ever stop to think these strange-tongued peasants the American language, or enlighten them Americanize customs and American laws?

"Not one bit of it. The same perfect lly willing to keep them foreign in their settlements where they learned nothing about the country or their adopted home. The employer wanted downtrodden peasants to remain down-trodden and ignorant. Thrift? Why, thrift was driving the life of the European backwoods!

"There were profits in it—big profits"

WORKERS STRIKE: CONFER.

Philadelphia, Jan. 22.—Several thousand members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union suspended work last Monday in an effort to enforce their demands for higher wages and better working conditions. At a mass meeting Monday evening the strikers appointed a committee of 50 to confer with the manufacturers and other trade interests. This was followed by the appointment of an arbitration committee composed of President Schlesinger and the Ladies' Garment Workers' union, a representative of the employers, Mayor Smith, Director of Public Safety Wilson and Judge Patterson. The board's findings were satisfactory to the union on practically every point. The only point on which committees should be appointed to set price on the various grades. The unionists insist that the union should control these committees, while the employers urge that they be set regardless of affiliation, but participate in the election of committeemen during the hearings. A joint committee of weekly wages as low as $1.90 and explained their fight against poverty for themselves and for invalid families and fatherless brothers and sisters in the old country. They appealed to the committee to favor the union controlling the workers' representative scale of wages. Organized workers feared, favoring increasing "union scale" to the detriment of possible court annulment, but during the campaign the intent of the "prevailing rate of wages" provision of the law was understood by citizens. The legislative committee of the Central Trades and Labor Union, it is said, will be asked to appropriate money sufficient to comply with the law, but if this is refused by the legislature, the committee reports to the central body.

Statements have been made to the city officials that the increases demanded by organized labor will increase the city pay-roll between $5 and $6 per cent, or approximately $100,000, and that an increase of 2 cents may be necessary in the tax rate to meet this advance. In connection we wish to note that these officials did not show any concern over scruples in accepting the handsome increase in salaries given them by the new city charter.

MINERS DEMAND INCREASE.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 22.—At the convention of Ohio miners it was agreed to demand a 10 per cent advance on mining rates. Operators will be asked to inside and outside wage scale with a proportionate increase in the rate. It was decided to abolish the run-of-mine basis, which means that coal must be weighed before it is screened. Action was secured by the passage of the Green anti-screen law, but this was practically nullified by the new mining code when it passed the Gallagher bill. These workers, however, have enforced the run-of-mine basis through their local unions.

To prevent discrimination the convention decided that miners' men are employed they shall be accepted in the order they apply for work.

UNEMPLOYMENT LAW ILLEGAL

Boise, Idaho, Jan. 22.—The state supreme court has declared the unemployment law unconstitutional. This law was passed by the last state legislature and provided that county commissioners, when requested, should furnish employment to any one who is out of work. The commissioners of this county were defendants in the suit. They pleaded that there were no funds available for the employment of laborers, that the county has no work, and that efficient work requires the machinery and supplies. Supporters of the law insisted that the commissioners should be forced to carry out the plain intent of the law.

The act was the first of its kind passed by any state.

FAVORS COMPENSATION.

Richmond, Va., Jan. 22.—In a special message to the general assembly, Governor Stuart recommended legislation that would place the state of Virginia on record, a preferential primary for selection of candidates for state offices and the appointment of a commission to study the question of rural credits with a view to establishing such a system in Virginia.

ASK WORK FOR FAIR EMPLOYES.

San Francisco, Jan. 22.—President Moore, of the exposition management, announced that a free employment bureau has been established to find work for former employes. It is stated that the exposition has had on its payroll at one time over 4,000 employes, and practically every profession, calling and trade is represented.

FAVORS LABOR SAFETY BUREAU.

Washington, Jan. 22.—The bill providing for a bureau of labor safety in the federal department of labor has been reported favorably to the house by the committee on labor.

Men of labor, remember hatters' day, January 27.

PLEAD FOR WOMEN WORKERS

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 22.—In his message to the general assembly Gov. Manning urged legislation in behalf of workers, especially women in large industries and also women employed in other lines of work. He said:

"Women are sometimes cruelly oppressed, and have to work for a greater number of hours than flesh and blood can stand. Sometimes they are required to work as many as ten hours or more, without opportunity for rest, and with scant time for meals; and with their work carried on at times in an unsanitary condition.

"These questions are of vital importance to the future of our race, and we must vitalize and put into active effect the laws now on our statute books, which apply to these conditions. If the present laws are insufficient, they should be so amended as to give the power and means to provide for their enforcement, so that these conditions may be improved without delay."

Governor Manning also recommended a law raising the age limit of children working in factories, mines and textile establishments. He said that a large number of school districts have placed themselves under the compulsory school attendance act, but this was not true in mill districts because the minimum age limit of the child labor law is 12 years and the school law maximum is 14 years.

The child labor law, declared the governor, has been a dead letter for want of funds with which to employ factory inspectors and other officials to enforce it. Only $2,000 was appropriated for the purpose and Labor Commissioner Ellerbe decided to establish a lower grade of text.

The commissioner's action sustains the position of officers of the A. F. of L. who assisted the National Federation of Child Labor in an action against Postmaster General Burleson's rule, in which the post office executive, the trade unionists made this statement:

"At no time in the history of the oldest employe in the postoffice service have lines been drawn more tightly. Carriers are overburdened with weighty parcels; clerks, under the civil service rules, are compelled to study twice as much at home in learning distribution schemes, from the mere substitute to the highest supervisory there is little, if any, slack. This attempt of the department to drive men beyond the limit of their endurance and destroy thereby other men who are in the security of service, is not likely to aid in the restoration of prosperous business conditions; neither is it likely to result in skilled, loyal, capable corps of postal workers."

WILL TEST WAGES BY LAW.

Boston, Jan. 22.—At the hearing before Supreme Court Judge DeCourcy to compel the state to establish minimum wages by law, it was brought out that the attorney general would test the legality of the law creating the state minimum wage commission by refusing to appeal from the decision of the lower court. Under the Massachusetts act the decision of the wage commission is not mandatory.

Little Rock, Ark., Jan. 22.—The decision of the United States supreme court in the Oregon minimum wage law case will have a bearing on the minimum wage law passed by the last state legislature. This law provides for a minimum wage of $1.25 for experienced female workers and $1.00 a day for female workers having had less than 6 months' service. The law was declared unconstitutional last summer by Judge Little of the Fort Smith circuit court and the state officials have appealed.

WISCONSIN UNIONISTS ACTIVE.

Milwaukee, Wis., Jan. 22.—At it. semi-annual session the executive board of the Wisconsin state federation of labor appropriated $2,000 for the purpose of placing organizers in the field for organization and affiliation work, to be carried on during the next five months.

The labor bulletin circulars will also be sent out. These will urge trade unionists to concentrate their energies toward increasing the use of union label products. Local organizers are instructed to call meetings of the representatives of the various trade unions and organize a local label trades committee. Deputy organizers are instructed to give their undivided attention to the label question and collect special attention in all localities visited.

LONGSHOREMEN GAIN.

Baltimore, Jan. 22.—A threatened strike has resulted in wage increases and better working conditions for over 4,000 longshoremen in this city.

Under the new agreement, both day and night workers will receive increases of 2½ and 5% cents an hour, time and one-half on legal holidays; double time on Sundays, Christmas Day, New Year's and July 4.

So-called "shylocking," heretofore prevalent among foremen, whereby money was advanced from the men under various pretenses, will be abolished and offenders severely penalized.

PENSIONS FOR WIDOWS.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Jan. 22.—The Quarterly court of this county has ordered an appropriation of $4,000 for widows' pensions, to become available July 1. This is the maximum appropriation in counties where juvenile courts are held. The act was engineered by the last legislature and provides for a pension of $10 per month for the eldest child and $5 per month for each additional child. Pensions will be under the supervision of juvenile courts.

WANT 44-HOUR WEEK.

Minneapolis, Jan. 22.—Typographical unions of this city and St. Paul are in a joint movement to improve conditions of their job printer members. The new scale will include demands for a 44-hour week and wage increases from $21 to $24 a week.

Remember hatters' day, January 27, and the sacred duty to give the wages of an hour's labor of that day to relieve the Danbury hatters, the victims of the greed of labor's enemies and the perversion of the law.

OPPOSE STATE BOARD'S RULING.

Worcester, Mass., Jan. 22.—Unionists of this city resent the action of the state board of conciliation and arbitration in issuing "certificates of impossibility" to the Norton Grinding company and the Leland-Gifford company, whose machinist employes are on strike.

The state law provides that where a strike exists the employer, when advertising for workers, must state that a strike exists. The state board, however, has power to exempt an employer from this provision when it is found, after an investigation, that normal conditions prevail in the plant.

The machinists have been striking for better working conditions, and have maintained pickets at both these places. The strikers insist that the board's certificates were based solely on information given by the companies. It is agreed that the plants have a full complement of workers—such as they are, and that when the claim of normal conditions is made it is based on outputs during the recent dull times and not on the capacity output which is possible today if incompetents and strikebreakers be replaced.

Trade unionists declare that under the board's ruling employers could easily defeat every strike that was ever started in this state by simply loaning their nonunion employes enough money to keep them solved so its output could assume "normal" proportions. With the exchanging of these strikebreakers the purposes of the law would be defeated and the struck plants could use the "no-strike" statement of state officials in their recruiting campaign for more strikebreakers.

TO INVESTIGATE TITLES.

Washington, Jan. 22.—At the meeting of the A. F. of L. executive council held in this city, on motion of J. W. Sullivan, a member of New York Typographical union No. 6, a resolution was passed to create a committee of five to collect and publish the facts "relating to the ownership of land by the governed in the various nations the tenure of the different categories of those title-holders in the earth."

This includes investigation of the public domain, forests, mineral deposits, parks and other resources. The author is chairman of the committee. The preamble of the resolution declares that:

"The problem of the just and most equitable division of the bounties of nature is today among the foremost of public questions, as evidenced by planks relating thereto in the platforms of all the political parties, by international congresses for the conservation of forests, the reclamation of arid or submerged areas, the trade unionist made this statement: Conservation of mineral deposits and by general discussion of the widespread movement of efforts to avoid the monopoly and seek work in the industrial centers."

BIG GAINS BY WESTERN UNION.

New York, Jan. 22.—The annual report of the Western Union Telegraph company, with December estimates included, for the calendar year 1915, shows that the total revenue was $42,356,286, against $47,863,562 in 1914. The net income of $11,-$11,527,287 in 1914. The dividends paid were $11,448,000. The company's balance for 1915 of $11,-$79,286 shows a gain of $4,659,286.

Commenting on the report is the report of the commission on industrial relations appointed by President Wilson to look into telegraph companies. It is stated that "the workers employed by the two principal companies, the Western Union and Postal, are not only underpaid, as admitted by the highest officials in their respective companies, but constantly subject to many abuses, such as the denial of proper periods of relief while on duty, the establishment of arbitrary speed rates which frequently result in discharges for unavoidable delays, and employes without notice for any cause or no cause, the employment of young boys for messenger service under conditions which can result only in their moral corruption and the employment of women for telegraph service at night."

WORD "ACCIDENT" IS DEFINED.

Madison, Wis., Jan. 22.—The word "accident," as used in the workmen's compensation law, must be given a broad and inclusive meaning, rules the state supreme court in the case of Bystrom Bros. vs. Industrial Commission. This case arose when a mason, in lifting a block, strained the muscles of the right side of his body. The question arose as to whether this was not an accident within the meaning of the statute. Justice Marshall delivered the opinion of the court. He said that the English and American authorities have established a liberal line of interpretation of terms in workmen's compensation laws and that this court considers itself bound to establish a broad interpretation of the word.

NEW PERIL TO WORKERS.

Chicago, Jan. 22.—Benzine and wood alcohol poisoning are the two newest forms of occupational diseases which will have to be combatted, according to the annual report of State Factory Inspector Oscar P. Nelson. Benzine poisoning occurs among makers and users of rubber cement in the manufacture of hats, clothing, leather, and rubber goods. Wood alcohol poisoning is prevalent among those who use certain perfumes, hats, quick dryers in paints, and painted china.

As a result of the increase in the number of occupational diseases the state factory department has established a clinic where employes may come to receive free examination and have their cases diagnosed.

SATURDAY VERDICT LEGAL.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 22.—The state supreme court has refused to review the findings of a Cincinnati jury, which a woman a verdict for $500 against W. H. Pugh on a note. Attorney for Pugh claimed the question of the jury might have hastily agreed on a verdict in order to get away and enjoy the Saturday afternoon holiday is legal in this state.

The supreme court declined to be a party to this original attempt to thwart justice.

IRON MOLDERS' STRIKE ENDS.

Worcester, Mass., Jan. 22.—The strike that was in progress since last June among iron molders employed at the plant of the Reliance Valve Gear and Iron company has been settled. It is stated that all strikers asked for will be dismissed, and working conditions improved.

INCREASE FOR STAGE EMPLOYES

Wheeling, W. Va., Jan. 22.—Stage employes have raised their wages approximately 25 per week per man. Stage carpenters, with $25 per week, receive the highest rate.

Men of labor, remember hatters' day, January 27.

POSTAL WORKERS INDICTED

Fairmont, W. Va., Jan. 22.—Can postoffice employes resign as a protest against intolerable working conditions?

The above question is answered in an emphatic negative by the United States department of justice, which has secured the indictment for conspiracy of 25 letter carriers and clerks because they showed some degree of independence on November 17, last, by forwarding their resignations to the post-office department at Washington. The case will be tried by Judge Dayton, the well-known injunction judge, at Parkersburg. Letters found accompanying the resignations indicate that these workers patiently endured a long list of abuses, but they had at last reached a point where they had lost faith in both the civil service commission and postal authorities who accepted without proper investigation the views and opinions of postmasters when complaints are made.

And now, in true bureaucratic style, these workers are indicted for conspiracy instead of treating them as citizens and removing their cause for complaint.

The postal employes are members of the National Association of Letter Carriers and the United National Association of Post Office Clerks. Neither of these organizations is affiliated to the American Federation of Labor and their officers have not expressed an opinion on the matter or indicated that they will assist in any manner their indicted members who were actually driven to resigning.

Contrary to this policy post-office unions affiliated to the A. F. of L. are aiding their fellow workers in every way both financially and in the securing of legislation that will strip the post-office authorities of the arbitrary power to make a repetition of this incident impossible. Secretary-Treasurer Walter of the International Typographical Union, has opened a subscription list in that organization's official magazine. The funds are for the benefit of the indicted workers and to meet necessary court costs.

The National Federation of Post-Office Clerks, also affiliated to the A. F. of L., is urging the creation of a commission, outside the post-office department, to review decisions which deny post-office workers a justice that rightfully belongs to free public servants.

WORKERS ARE A UNIT.

Toronto, Ontario, Jan. 22.—The Industrial Banner has this to say of the Canadian Federation of Labor convention, to be held in this city, Jan. 27, inaugurated by the A. F. of L., for the benefit of despoiled Panbury hatters:

"The facts of this case are so well known that it is hardly necessary to revert to them at the present time. Happily, owing to the splendid fight put up by the A. F. of L. and the indignation the iniquitous rendering of the courts caused throughout the United States, any action such as this can hardly be taken except to adapt it to labor unions, and never be used against them in future cases.

"It is a worthy cause, and it is hoped that the response from Canadian unionists will be both prompt and hearty. Nothing more could serve to cement the friendship so long existing and oneness of the American trade union movement than local assistance from the membership in the Dominion of Canada."

MINERS OPPOSE PREPAREDNESS.

Indianapolis, Jan. 22.—Denunciation of the preparedness campaign by President White and Secretary-Treasurer Wm. Green marked the opening session of the biennial convention of the United Mine Workers of America. White and Green officials were applauded by the 1,500 delegates, as was the declaration by Secretary-Treasurer Green that workers should share in the present prosperity.

The coal diggers' executive said he was "fully convinced that the men of labor are unilaterally opposed to the wide scheme of preparedness," and that he "earnestly hoped that the plans are for the creation of an armed camp which may be used to extend commercialism abroad and exploit labor at home." Secretary-Treasurer Green was equally emphatic in his anti-preparedness views.

Following the Colorado strike situation, President White opposed the theory of Rockefeller "unionism."

MUST ACCEPT SALARY.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 22.—If a candidate for public office in this state promises voters he will not accept all of the salary, he must accept it, the supreme court has ruled.

P. C. Prentiss was elected judge of the Henry county common pleas court. During the campaign he promised constituents he would decline to accept all the salary and would thereby save taxpayers $6,650 in two years. The supreme court now sustains the court of Appeals that this is a violation of the law. The court, however, declared that the appointee of Prentiss is not eligible to the vacancy caused by the decision, and the governor must appoint.

CARPENTERS ARE HOPEFUL.

New York, Jan. 22.—Officials of the district council of the Brotherhood of Carpenters are hopeful that the wage demands of these workers will be favorably considered by the Building Trades Employers' association. The carpenters are asking for 70 cents an hour instead of 65 cents, this New York city proper, 67½ cents for Brooklyn and 56¼ cents for other sections of Greater New York. The new scale of union work is 50 cents an hour, 54 hours to constitute a week's work.

ADDS TO "SCRAP HEAP."

Boston, Jan. 22.—Child labor adds to the social scrap heap, said Rabbi Levi, in a speech in this city. He declared that the greatest way to develop a generation that is old when it should be young, worn out when it should be strong, is to carry for the grave when it should be yielding most to society.

PROTECTION EXTENDED.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 22.—The court of appeals has upheld the extra territorial phase of the workmen's compensation law. This means that a workman employed by a New York state concern is entitled to compensation for injuries received while temporarily working in another state.

LARGE UNFILLED TONNAGE.

New York, Jan. 22.—The unfilled tonnage of the United States steel corporation on December 31 totaled 7,566,326 tons, an increase of 816,131 tons over November. These orders is the largest total recorded by the corporation since January 31, 1913.

Give the wages of an hour's labor, January 27, to relieve the Danbury hatters.

AUSTRALIAN WORKERS MUST RELY ON UNIONS

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, Jan. 22.—"It is to the record of unionism in New South Wales we can turn with the greatest satisfaction," says the Australian Worker in a leading editorial on the silver jubilee of Australian trade unionism.

The paper refers to advances made by labor on the political field. "But when all this is granted," it continues, "there remains good grounds for disappointment with the results of labor victories in New South Wales.

"The election of a parliamentary labor majority did not impress itself upon us as a swift transition from darkness into light. There are no wonderful changes marking off the labor era from that which preceded it.

"It is, perhaps, too soon. Political power is not a magician's wand, turning the hovel into a palace and the gewinshed into a prince.

"Labor ministers are but human. They are too apt to confound their own welfare with the uplifting of the masses, and developing a frame of mind which enables them to act as though the end justified the means. The spirit and object of the labor movement were attained.

"But New South Wales this tendency has hardened into a positive evil. No wonder the ranks of the workers are torn with dissension. No wonder the unions carry resolutions of condemnation against men and women who have fought and suffered for the ideals of the movement are gathered to the state ministry to be greeted with sullen eyes and muttering voices."

The Australian Worker, however, is optimistic, and declares that the cause for jubilation is the advance of trade unionism as a whole.

"It is to the record of unionism in New South Wales we can turn with the greatest satisfaction. Labor's silver jubilee in that state is an event which all organizations of labor can celebrate with pride in their splendid solidarity and in the justice of their cause.

"It is that solidarity which will safeguard the labor movement and preserve it from the elements of degeneration.

"It is that solidarity, and that passion for justice, which will purge it of base intriguers and self-seeking adventurers who have held it politics, and lead it onward, despite the virulence of enemies and the faithlessness of friends, to the consummation of its desires."

SUNDAY CLOSING LAW UPHELD.

Portland, Ore., Jan. 22.—Federal Judge Wolverton has declared the Oregon Sunday closing law and rules that it does not fail to pass legislative muster because the real purpose of enforcing religious observances, but to "protect persons from the physical and moral debasement that comes from unincorrupted labor."

The decision is of the kind that sometimes called a Sunday law does not alter the question, and the interpretation of the law is a clear declaration of this act itself. Laws setting aside Sundays as a day of rest are upheld by courts in many states, and within the police power of the state to suspend certain activities on Sunday, the law relating to Sunday are enacted in the legal exercise of the police power of the state.

The court held that the question was a state issue and not a federal one, and that the constitutional amendment to the federal constitution did not, apply to legislation intended to promote health, peace and good order of the state, also so unreasonable as to amount to confiscation.

WHY MINERS ORGANIZE.

Pittston, Pa., Jan. 22.—In an address to miners in this vicinity, John Mitchell asked this question:

"After all the time spent in the coal regions of the anthracite field, did you ever hear of a single case where one man, individually, was able to enter into a advantageous agreement with the coal companies?"

The speaker referred to the claim that the new Pennsylvania workmen's compensation law renders unionism unnecessary. "It will not operate itself," he said. "To enjoy its benefits workers must do something to make it effective. This is only possible through organization, which secured established wage rates and the basis of compensation awards by the state board.

NATIONAL EFFICIENCY.

San Francisco, Jan. 22.—"Illiteracy spells inefficiency and national insecurity," says the national illiteracy bureau of the Weekly Star, which declares that "one of the menaces to national efficiency is illiteracy," and that "the percentage of illiteracy in the United States is decreasing among persons over ten years of age was 7.7 per cent. This is a higher percentage than exists in Great Britain, Holland, Germany, Sweden or Australia."

LAND LAW WEAKENED.

Sacramento, Cal., Jan. 22.—According to a bulletin issued by Attorney General Webb, parents of Japanese minors born in the United States have a right to purchase and hold land for their children. It is declared that this rule will weaken the California alien land law by big numbers of Japanese in agricultural land may now place their holdings in the names of Japanese children.

WOMEN TO ORGANIZE.

Boston, Jan. 22.—At a meeting of women employed as stenographers, officials of the Boston Typothetae was decided to organize and ask the American Federation of Labor for a charter. Low wages is one of the principal complaints of these workers.

ALUMINUM STRIKE SETTLED.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Jan. 22.—Striking employes of the Pittsburg Company of America have won an increase of 19 cents a day, making a minimum wage of $3 per day and a maximum of $3.40. Representatives of the state industrial commission assisted in the settlement.

Remember hatters' day, January 27, and the sacred duty to give the wages of an hour's labor of that day to relieve the Danbury hatters, the victims of the greed of labor's enemies and the perversion of the law.